

WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
NET METERING TARIFF
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 38 NM

A. Application.

The following tariff shall apply to members who: (1) take service under a rate within this electric service tariff, (2) have received approval pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 from the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) for an individual net metered system or a group net metered system as defined below, and (3) employ an eligible system (defined below in sections C(1) and D(1)) to generate electricity primarily for their own use and which from time to time generates electricity in excess of the member’s then current needs and is connected to deliver such excess electricity to the Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.’s (“WEC” or “Co-op”) distribution system. Members must conform to all applicable requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 248 and to Vermont PUC Orders, Rules, Regulations, electrical safety, power quality, current WEC bylaws and membership application provisions, and interconnection requirements pertaining to self-generation of energy for net metering. This tariff provision shall not supersede any terms and conditions of any other tariff provision under which the member takes service from WEC, which other terms and conditions shall continue to apply. In the event of changes to Vermont PUC Orders and/or Rules that pertain to net metering, the terms of this tariff are subject to amendment and/or revision.

A net metering system or facility whose completed CPG application was filed on or after January 1, 2017, as referenced herein shall include any new construction and/or commissioning of a net metering system that requires a Certificate of Public Good from the PUC or any Major Amendment to a Pre-Existing System as defined under Vt. PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.*

B. Certificate of Public Good and Energy Efficiency Audit.

Any member seeking to take service in accordance with this tariff provision shall be required to submit written application for a certificate of public good under 30 V.S.A. § 248 to the PUC on forms specified by the PUC, follow all procedures specified in those forms and PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.*, and obtain such a certificate from the PUC before connecting any eligible system to WEC’s distribution system or any portion of the member’s own electric system that is itself connected to WEC’s electric distribution system.

A certificate of public good for a net metering system is automatically transferred when the property with the net metering system is sold or otherwise conveyed. The new owner may commence net metering provided that the new owner: (1) agrees to operate and maintain the net metering system according to the terms and conditions

of the certificate of public good and in compliance with PUC Rule 5.100 and; (2) files a transfer form provided by the PUC with the Co-op and the PUC. Any monetized credits remaining on the previous owner's account shall not be transferred to the new owner.

An energy efficiency audit will be required and applies to members who install net metering systems (both individual and any member participating in a group net metering system) with completed CPG applications on or after January 1, 2017. Any residential member seeking to take new service in accordance with this tariff, with historic energy consumption of 750 kWh or more per month that is based upon the past two years average kWh consumption, or any commercial or industrial member regardless of average use shall be required to obtain an energy efficiency audit prior to submitting an application to the PUC as set forth above.¹ The energy efficiency audit may be provided by Efficiency Vermont or any other vendor/contractor approved by WEC. The energy efficiency audit must provide a summary of energy efficiency options, savings, and recommendations. The member, at its discretion, shall decide whether or not to implement the recommendations of the energy efficiency audit. However, this requirement for an energy efficiency audit shall be waived by WEC in the event the member can demonstrate that its home and/or building that is taking service under this tariff received a 5-Star energy efficiency rating or equivalent rating or conducted an energy efficiency audit accepted by WEC in the past ten years. In the event WEC approves an audit from someone other than Efficiency Vermont or consents to a waiver of the efficiency audit upon satisfaction of the criteria set forth above, WEC shall provide such approval or waiver in writing. The member shall provide such written approval, waiver, or evidence of the completed Efficiency Vermont audit in its application for a Certificate of Public Good prior to the installation of the net metering system.

C. Individual Net Metering System.

1) Definition. An eligible individual net metering system is defined as a facility for generation of electricity that is no more than 500 kW capacity rated as Alternating Current (AC) at the point of interconnect to the WEC distribution system; that obtains a certificate of public good² and conforms to PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.*, or any other net metering system installed and approved by the PUC prior to January 1, 2017; operates in parallel with facilities of WEC's distribution system; is intended primarily to offset part or all of the member's own electricity requirements; is located on the member's premise and employs a renewable energy source using a technology that

¹. In the event that a new residential member seeking to take service under this tariff does not have two years of prior usage history, and the new member is not otherwise required to complete an Efficiency Audit under WEC's line extension tariff, prior usage shall be determined by reviewing prior historic usage of the member of a minimum of two months or the historic usage of the preexisting property owner.

². When the term "Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") is used herein, the reference shall include the registration form and process required of Category 1 systems of up to 15 kW.

relies on a resource that is being consumed at a harvest rate at or below its natural regeneration rate pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17) or is a qualified micro-combined heat and power system with a capacity up to 20 kW (AC) that meets the definition of a combined heat and power facility under 30 V.S.A. § 8015(b)(2) (hereinafter referred to as “eligible system” or “facility”). The member shall be responsible for the maintenance, safety, interconnection requirements, and condition of the eligible system.

2(a) Energy Measurement for Net Metering Facilities installed Prior To July 7, 2014. The Co-op shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during each billing period. A digital utility meter with bi-directional functionality, owned by the Co-op and appropriate for the member’s rate class will be provided. Such meter will measure both the kWh produced by the member’s eligible system, as well as the net consumption of energy supplied by the Co-op. For members who desire a second meter for their own information, the Co-op shall supply an appropriate additional meter and the Member shall pay for the equipment and installation at the cost set in ¶ D.7. The meter shall be installed in accordance with the Co-op’s standards - and shall be the property of the Co-op. Such additional meter shall be accessible to the Co-op at all reasonable times, and shall not be removed or otherwise disturbed by the member without advance written notice to and permission from the Co-op. Such additional meter shall be located in reasonable proximity to the existing meter and subject to testing by the Co-op at any time at the Co-op’s own expense upon reasonable advance written notice to the member.

2(b) Energy Measurement for Net Metering Facilities installed on or After July 7, 2014. The facility shall be interconnected directly to the Co-op’s grid with a separate, second production meter. The Co-op shall measure and calculate both the gross amount of electricity produced from the facility and the gross electricity consumed from WEC by the member during the billing period. There will be two meters, both shall be owned by WEC. The first meter will be a digital utility meter, installed and paid for by WEC. This meter shall be used to measure and calculate gross energy consumed by the member. The second meter, supplied by WEC, shall measure and allow WEC to calculate total or gross production from the facility. The member shall pay for the second meter including the equipment and installation at the cost set in ¶ D.7. Both meters shall be installed in accordance with the Coop’s standards. Both meters shall be accessible to the Coop at all reasonable times, and shall not be removed or otherwise disturbed without advance written notice to and permission from the Coop.

3(a) Billing for Net Metering Facilities for which a Completed CPG Application was Filed before January 1, 2017. If, at the end of a billing period, the electricity generated and fed back to the distribution system by the member exceeds the electricity supplied by the Co-op, then the Co-op shall calculate a monetary credit to the member as follows:

(i) For a period of ten years from the commissioning of the net metering facility, by multiplying the excess kWh generated during the billing period by the Co-op's highest residential block rate.

(ii) At the end of the 10-year period, members using pre-existing net metering systems shall be credited for excess generation at the blended residential rate; the blended residential rate is 0.17141/kwh). Until such time as the PUC's net-metering regulations change, pre-existing systems still operating beyond 20 years will be credited at the blended residential rate.

The Co-op shall apply the monetized credit to any remaining charges on the member's current electric bill for that period, provided the pre-existing net metering system is within ten years of its initial commissioning. After ten years from initial commissioning, monetized credits shall not be applied to non-by-passable charges as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* If application to such charges does not use the entire balance of the credit, the remaining balance of the credit shall appear on the member's bill. When the net metering system is served via a time-of-use rate class and more generation is produced within a time period than was consumed in that time period, then the excess kWh generation shall be used to offset any net kWh consumption in any other time period within the billing period prior to the monetization calculation. However, if a time of use member who has a qualifying net generating facility interconnected directly to WEC, whose generation does not offset consumption and is measured through a separate meter, where its primary purpose is to measure the energy generated by the system, then the member's bill credits shall apply to all kWh generated by the net metering system and shall be calculated at WEC's highest residential block retail rate.

3(b) Billing for Net Metering Facilities with a completed CPG application filed with the PUC on or after January 1, 2017. At the end of a billing period, WEC shall measure and calculate the gross generation consumed and the gross generation produced. If measurement and calculation of gross generation consumed is greater than the gross generation produced, the member shall be billed, based upon their respective customer class tariff for the net consumed, less any monetized credits accumulated in the preceding 12 months other than non-by-passable charges. In addition, the following monetized credits and charges shall be computed to the member's account on a monthly basis:

(i) If at the end of a billing period, the gross electricity generated and fed back to the distribution system by the member exceeds the gross electricity consumed by the member, then the Co-op shall calculate a monetary credit by multiplying the excess kWh generation times the blended residential rate as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders; **the blended residential rate is 0.17141/kwh.**

Filed August 3, 2022

Effective September 1, 2022

(ii) For the first 10 years after the net metering system is commissioned, any positive Siting or REC adjustor set forth in the net metering facility's CPG is multiplied by the kWh for the respective billing period for gross generation and applied to the bill as a credit.

(iii) Any negative Siting or REC adjustor set forth in the net metering facility's CPG is multiplied by the kWh for the respective billing period for gross generation and applied to the bill as an additional charge and will be applied in perpetuity.

These credits shall be applied as set forth in subsection (5) below.

4 5.132 charges (meter reading, accounting, account correction, account maintenance, and meter cost).

WEC shall bill the following service fees and charges [effective July 1, 2023](#):

- (a) Account set up fee for individual accounts: ~~\$33.00~~[\\$37.23](#).
- (b) Monthly account maintenance fee: ~~\$3.97~~[\\$4.48](#) per month.
- (c) Production/Time-of-Use Meter/per meter cost: ~~\$266.29~~[\\$300.46](#)

5 Accumulated Credits. Any accumulated monetary credits shall be used by the member within twelve months or shall revert to the Co-op without any compensation to the individual net metering system member. Monetized credits shall not be applied to past due balances prior to the commissioning of the net metering system. Accumulation of monetary credits shall not result in any financial payments to the member. The Co-op shall apply monetized credits from previous billing periods using credits that are scheduled to expire soonest first.

(a) For net metering members who had a completed CPG application filed with the PUC on or after January 1, 2017, the credit shall be applied to all charges on a member's electricity bill other than non-by-passable charges as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders.

(b) For net metering members who had a completed CPG application filed with the PUC prior to January 1, 2017 and for a period of 10 years following the commissioning of the net metering system, the credit shall be applied to all charges on the member's electric bill. For the period following ten years from the commissioning of the net metering system, the credits shall be applied to all charges on the member's electric bill, not otherwise consisting of non-by-passable charges as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders.

D. Group Net Metering System.

1 Definition. An eligible group net metering system is defined as a group of members, or a single member with multiple electric meters, all located within the Co-op's service territory, where the members have elected to share energy and monetized excess generation credits created by a net metered system defined as a facility for generation of electricity that is no more than 500 kW AC capacity; that obtains a certificate of public good and conforms to PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.*, or any other group net metering system installed and approved by the PUC prior to January 1, 2017; operates in parallel with facilities of the Co-op's distribution system; is intended primarily to offset part or all of the group net metering system member's own electricity requirements; and employs a renewable energy source produced using a technology that relies on a resource that is being consumed at a harvest rate at or below its natural regeneration rate pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 8002(17) or is a qualified micro-combined heat and power system with a capacity up to 20 kW that meets the definition of a combined heat and power facility under 30 V.S.A. § 8015(b)(2). Unmetered municipal street lighting accounts are not eligible to be members of a group. An account cannot be a member of more than one group. The cumulative capacity of net-metering systems allocated to a single member may not exceed 500 kW.

2 The group net metering system members shall be responsible for the cost, maintenance, safety and condition of the eligible system.

3 A group net metering system shall file with the PUC, the Department of Public Service and WEC a completed net metering application provided by the PUC including the-following information:

(a) The meters identified by account number to be included in the group system.

(b) A procedure for adding and removing meters included in the group net metering system and directions as to the manner in which the Co-op shall allocate any accrued credits among the meters included in the system as outlined further below.

(c) A designated person responsible for all communications between the group net metering system and WEC except for communications related to individual account billing, payment and disconnection.

(d) A binding process for the resolution of any disputes within the group net metering system relating to net metering that does not rely on the Co-op, the PUC, or the Department of Public Service. This process does not apply to disputes between WEC and the individual group members regarding billing, payment, and disconnection.

4 WEC shall bill directly and send all communications regarding billing, payment and disconnection directly to each individual group net metering system account. All charges for each individual account shall be based on the individual meter for that account and the rate class associated with that meter, unless otherwise specified herein.

5(a) Energy Measurement for Group Net Metering Facilities installed Prior to July 7, 2014. The Co-op shall measure the net electricity produced or consumed during each billing period for the group net metering system meter that has the generation interconnected. A digital utility meter with bi-directional functionality, owned by the Co-op and appropriate for the group's rate class will be provided. Such meter will measure both the kWh produced by the generating account as well as the net consumption of energy supplied by the Co-op. For group net metering systems who desire a second production meter for their own information, the Co-op shall supply an appropriate additional meter. The group net metering system members shall pay for the equipment and installation of the second production meter at the cost set in ¶ D.7. The meter shall be installed in accordance with the Co-op's standards and shall be the property of the Co-op. Such additional meter shall be accessible to the Co-op at all reasonable times, and shall not be removed or otherwise disturbed by the group net metering system members without advance written notice to and permission from the Co-op. Such additional meter shall be located in reasonable proximity to the existing meter and subject to testing by the Co-op at any time at the Co-op's own expense upon reasonable advance written notice to the group net metering system designated person.

5(b) Energy Measurement for Group Net Metering Facilities installed on or After July 7, 2014. The Co-op shall measure both the gross amount of electricity produced from the facility and gross electricity consumed from WEC by the members during the billing period. The facility shall be interconnected directly to the Co-op's grid with a separate production meter. This production meter, supplied by the Co-op, shall measure and allow WEC to calculate total production from the facility. The group net metering members shall pay for this production meter including the equipment and installation at the cost set in ¶ D.7. This production meter shall be installed in accordance with the Co-op's standards. This production meter shall be accessible to the Co-op at all reasonable times, and shall not be removed or otherwise disturbed without advance written notice to and permission from the Co-op.

6(a) Billing For Group Net Metering Facilities for which a Completed CPG Application was Filed Before January 1, 2017 and Where Generation is Physically Connected to Billing Meter and Offsets Consumption of The Member. If, at the end of a billing period, the electricity generated and fed back to the distribution system by the generating account exceeds the electricity supplied to that

account by the Co-op to the particular billing meter, then the excess kWh shall be allocated to the group member accounts on a percentage or other acceptable basis proposed by the group and agreed upon by the Co-op pursuant to the allocation instructions provided by the group. The allocated kWh shall then be credited and monetized as follows:

- (i) For a period of ten years from the commissioning of the net metering facility, by multiplying the excess kWh generated during the billing period by the Co-op's highest residential block rate.
- (ii) At the end of the 10-year period, members using pre-existing net metering systems shall be credited for excess generation at the blended residential rate; the blended residential rate is 0.17141/kwh). Until such time as the PUC's net-metering regulations change, or the PUC issues an applicable Order, pre-existing systems still operating beyond 20 years will be credited at the blended residential rate.

The Co-op shall apply the monetized credit to any remaining charges on the group member's current bill for that period, provided that pre-existing net metering system is within ten years of its initial commissioning. After such date, monetized credits shall not be applied to non-by-passable charges as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders. If application of such credits to charges does not use the entire balance of the credit, the remaining balance of the credit shall appear on the individual member's bill. Any accumulated monetary credits shall be used by the individual member within twelve months or shall revert to the Co-op without any compensation to the group net metering system members. Accumulation of monetary credits shall not result in any financial payments to the member.

When the generating account of a group net metering system is served via a time-of-use rate class and more generation is produced within a time period than was consumed in that time period, then the excess kWh generation shall be used to offset any net kWh consumption in any other time period within the billing period for that account prior to the allocation of excess kWh to group members.

6(b) Billing For Group Net Metering Facilities for which a Completed CPG Application was Filed Before January 1, 2017 and Where Generation is Interconnected to The Grid Such That Generation Does Not Offset Consumption to The Member or Group.

Where generation is directly interconnected to the Co-op such that the generation does not offset consumption of the member or group, credit for the billing period shall be calculated as follows:

- (i) For a period of ten years from the commissioning of the net metering facility, by allocating the total production associated with the group in the manner prescribed by

the group to each group member. Each customer is credited at the Co-op's highest residential block rate.

(ii) At the end of the 10-year period, by allocating the total production associated with the group in the manner prescribed by the group to each group member. Each customer is credited at at the blended residential rate.

The Co-op shall apply the monetized credit to any remaining charges on the group member's current bill for that period, provided that pre-existing net metering system is within ten years of its initial commissioning. After such date, monetized credits shall not be applied to non-by-passable charges as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders. If application to such credits to charges does not use the entire balance of the credit, the remaining balance of the credit shall appear on the individual member's bill. Any accumulated monetary credits shall be used by the individual member within twelve months or shall revert to the Co-op without any compensation to the group net metering system members. Accumulation of monetary credits shall not result in any financial payments to the member.

6(c) Billing For Group Net Metering Facilities With A Completed CPG Application Filed With The PUC on or After January 1, 2017 and Where Generation is Interconnected to The Grid Such That Generation Does Not Offset Consumption to The Member or Group.

For group net-metering systems directly connected to the utility grid, the electricity produced by the net-metering system will be allocated to the group members and monetized at the applicable blended residential rate. The monetized credit applies to all charges on the bill not identified as non-by-passable charges.

For the first 10 years after the system is commissioned, any zero or positive siting or REC adjustor set forth in the net-metering facility's CPG is multiplied by the kWh from the production meter, allocated to the group members, and applied to the bills as credits.

Any negative siting or REC adjustor set forth in the net-metering facility's CPG is multiplied by the kWh from the production meter, allocated to the group members, and applied to the bills as additional charges.

If monetary credits remain on group members' bills after being applied to all charges on the bills not identified as non-by-passable charges in this tariff, such credits must be tracked, applied, or carried forward on group member bills.

7 5.132 charges (meter reading, accounting, account correction, account maintenance, and meter cost).

WEC shall bill the following service fees and charges [effective July 1, 2023](#):

- (a) Account set up fee for the group account: ~~\$111.00~~[\\$125.24](#). This charge shall be divided equally amongst the group members.
- (b) Monthly account maintenance fee: ~~\$3.97~~[\\$4.48](#) per month per member participating in the group system.
- (c) Production/Time-of-Use Meter/per meter cost: ~~\$266.69~~[\\$300.91](#).

8 Allocation of Group Net Metering. Allocations may only be changed on written notice to the Co-op by the designated person of the group net metering system. The Co-op shall implement appropriate changes to the allocation of credits within thirty days after receiving written notification from the designated person. Allocations can be changed no more than twice per calendar year and shall not be applied retroactively. Changes are subject to the Co-op's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

E. Renewable Energy Credits.

1) For Net Metering Facilities With a Completed CPG Application Filed With The Vermont Public Service PUC on or after January 1, 2017 REC rates will be based on PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or applicable PUC Orders.

At the time an application for authorization to construct the net-metering system is filed with the PUC, the applicant must elect whether to retain ownership of any RECs generated by the system or whether to transfer such RECs to the Co-op. This election is irrevocable. The Co-op must retire all RECs transferred to it by a net metering customer.

2) For Net Metering Facilities filed on or after July 7, 2014 and before January 1, 2017:

WEC shall retain all renewable energy credits and associated environmental attributes ("RECs") generated by the net metering system. WEC may sell, transfer or retire the RECs at its sole and full discretion.

F. REC and Siting Adjustors. These adjustors are applicable to net metering system facilities with a completed CPG application filed with the PUC on or after January 1, 2017.³

1. REC Adjustors.

At the time the PUC issues the net-metering facility a CPG, a zero or positive REC adjustor shall be applied for a period of 10 years from the date the system is commissioned; a negative REC adjustor applies in perpetuity. The adjustors are as follows:

		1/1/2017-6/30/2018	7/1/2018-6/30/2019	7/1/2019-2/1/2021	2/2/2021-8/31/2021	9/1/2021-8/31/2022	9/1/2022-forward
Category	size kW AC	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)	REC adjustor (assumes RECs to WEC)
I	15 kW or less	\$ 0.03000	\$ 0.02000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
II	> 15 kW and <= 150 kW	\$ 0.03000	\$ 0.02000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
III	> 150 kW and <= 500 kW	\$ 0.03000	\$ 0.02000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IV	> 15 kW and <= 150 kW	\$ 0.03000	\$ 0.02000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hydro	<= 500 kW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

REC Retention (if consumer retains RECs there is a charge):

1/1/2017 – 2/1/2021 = (\$0.0300)/kWh
 2/2/2021 – 08/31/2022 = (\$0.0400)/kWh
 9/1/2022 - 6/30/2024 = (0.04000)/kWh

Hydro electric facilities net metering under this rule are not subject to a REC adjustor.

2. Siting Adjustors.

At the time the PUC issues the net metering facility a CPG, a zero or positive siting adjustor shall be applied for a period of 10 years from the date the system is commissioned; a negative siting adjustor applies in perpetuity.

		1/1/2017-6/30/2018	7/1/2018-6/30/2019	7/1/2019-2/1/2021	2/2/2021-8/31/2021	9/1/2021-8/31/2022	9/1/2022-6/30/2024
Category	size kW AC	Siting Adjustor	Siting Adjustor	Siting Adjustor	Siting Adjustor	Siting Adjustor	Siting Adjustor
I	15 kW or less	\$ 0.01000	\$ 0.01000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ (0.01000)	\$ (0.02000)
II	> 15 kW and <= 150 kW	\$ 0.01000	\$ 0.01000	\$ 0.01000	\$ -	\$ (0.01000)	\$ (0.02000)
III	> 150 kW and <= 500 kW	\$ (0.01000)	\$ (0.02000)	\$ (0.02000)	\$ (0.03000)	\$ (0.04000)	\$ (0.05000)
IV	> 15 kW and <= 150 kW	\$ (0.01000)	\$ (0.03000)	\$ (0.03000)	\$ (0.04000)	\$ (0.05000)	\$ (0.06000)
Hydro	<= 500 kW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

- a. Category I (as defined in PUC. Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or an applicable PUC Order.
- b. Category II (as defined in PUC. Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or an applicable PUC Order.

³ Applicable dates for pending systems may be subject to the Commission’s Order Granting Further Extension of Commissioning Deadlines in Case No. 20-0789-INV.

- Order.
- c. For applications made between 1/1/17 and 7/1/18 Category III (as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or an applicable PUC Order = negative \$0.01 per kwh). For applications made after 7/1/18, Category III (as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or an applicable PUC Order.
 - d. Category IV (as defined in PUC Rule 5.100 *et seq.* or an applicable PUC Order.

Hydroelectric facilities have no siting adjustors.

G. Liability Insurance.

Net metering members shall maintain a liability insurance policy in an amount of no less than those proscribed by the PUC's rules. Proof of insurance shall be furnished annually to the Coop.

H. Interconnection Requirements.

The Cooperative shall require a customer to comply with generation interconnection, safety and reliability requirements, as determined by the PUC by rule or order.

If the Co-op determines that the capacity of the distribution system is insufficient for the designed generation the member shall be required to pay for the cost of Co-op improvements necessary to interconnect, establish, and distribute power from the net metering facility.

If the Co-op determines through preliminary analysis that interconnection and operation of the proposed net metering system may negatively impact the power quality, reliability or safety of the Co-op's distribution system, the Co-op may perform at the member's expense detailed analysis as provided for in PUC Rules 5.131 and 5.500.

I. Disconnection of Net Metering Facility.

Any eligible system shall be subject to emergency disconnection of the system. These emergency disconnection procedures do not supplant PUC Rules 5.132, 3.300 and 3.400 or other tariff rules and regulations related to Co-op disconnections.

In general, an emergency shall be considered to occur when the interconnection of an eligible system represents a condition which is likely to result in significant disruption of service to the Co-op's members or is likely to endanger life or property.

If the Co-op performs an emergency disconnection of an eligible system, the Co-op shall notify the member within twenty-four hours after the disconnection. If the emergency is not caused by the eligible system, then the Co-op shall reconnect the system upon cessation of the emergency. If the emergency is caused by the eligible system, then the Co-op shall communicate the nature of the problem with the member within five days and attempt to resolve the issue with the member. The Co-op shall file a disconnection petition with the PUC if the Co-op and the member have not reached a mutually agreed-upon resolution within thirty days of the emergency disconnection.

Non-emergency disconnections of an eligible system by the Co-op shall follow the same process as set out above for emergency disconnections of such system, except that the Co-op shall give written notice of the disconnection no earlier than ten days and no later than three working days prior to the first date on which the disconnection of the system may occur. Such prior notice shall communicate the reason for the disconnection and the expected duration of the disconnection. If the eligible system is not the reason for the system's disconnection, the Co-op shall reconnect the system as soon as the activity necessitating the disconnection ceases. Temporary, non-emergency disconnections due to the removal of the meter by the Co-op or their representatives such as those related to a meter exchange or meter test shall not require prior notice.

A member shall be prohibited from reclosing a disconnect device, which has been opened and tagged by the Co-op, without the prior approval of the Co-op, or, in event of dispute, the PUC.

A member who initiates a permanent disconnection of an eligible system shall promptly notify the Co-op.